

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 JIDDA 02867 140657Z

16

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 OMB-01 INT-08 AGR-20 EB-11

COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 IO-13

AID-20 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /177 W

----- 085145

R 101224Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4314

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JIDDA 2867

KUWAIT PASS OMAN

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, SA, IR

SUBJECT: IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT--PRESS COVERAGE
AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS

SUMMARY: KHALATBARI VISIT CHARACTERIZED BY WELL-
ORCHESTRATED PRESS AND EDITORIAL COVERAGE EMPHASIZING EX-
ISTING GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA AND
PRAISING IRAN FOR SUPPORTING ISLAMIC UNITY. PRACTICAL
RESULTS OF TALKS NOT REVEALED, BUT HARMONIOUS NATURE OF
DISCUSSIONS ILLUSTRATED BY COMPROMISE SOLUTION TO QUESTION
OF NOMENCLATURE OF ARAB/PERSIAN GULF. END SUMMARY.

1. KHALATBARI'S VISIT WAS WIDELY COVERED BY JIDDA PRESS,

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 JIDDA 02867 140657Z

BOTH IN NEWS COLUMNS AND EDITORIALS. EDITORIALS INVARIABLY

PRAISED IRAN, DESCRIBING IT AS DEFENDER OF ISLAMIC FAITH AND SUPPORTER OF ISLAMIC UNITY AND SOLIDARITY. PRESS ALSO STRESSED COMMON HISTORICAL BONDS OF TWO COUNTRIES, NOTING AS WELL IRAN HAD BEEN "FIRST" TO CONDEMN ISRAELI OCCUPATION AND TO STAND WITH ARABS FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS.. ONE EDITORIAL UNDERLINED THERE IS NOTHING CURRENTLY TO IMPEDE SAUDI-IRANIAN RELATIONS, WHICH IT DESCRIBED AS "VERY STRONG." PAPER ADDED THAT IRAN, LIKE ARAB NATIONS, IS UNDERSTANDABLY "SEEKING ITS PLACE IN THE SUN."

2. IN A FULL PAGE INTERVIEW WITH THE MANAGING EDITOR OF JIDDA'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS PAPER, AL-MEDINA, KHALATBARI RESPONDED TO QUESTION CONCERNING PURPOSE BEHIND IRAN'S MASSIVE ARMAMENTS PLAN BY NOTING IRAN INTENDING SOLELY TO DEFEND ITS PETROLEUM, AGRICULTURAL AND MINERAL WEALTH. EXPANSION IN IRANIAN ARMAMENTS SHOULD IN NO WAY BE CONSTRUED AS SCHEME FOR SEIZING TERRITORIES FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. KHALATBARI DECLARED IRAN OPPOSED TO ANY FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN AREA, PARTICULARLY BY "BIG POSERS." HE ADDED IRAN IS READY TO WORK AND COOPERATE WITH ITS NEIGHBORS ON BASIS THAT SECURITY OF GULF IS THEIR RESPONSIBILITY.

3. IN PLACE OF COMMUNIQUE KHALATBARI MADE STATEMENT TO PRESS AT CONCLUSION OF VISIT, STRESSING NEED FOR COOPERATION AMONG STATES OF REGION, ADDITION THAT EXCELLENT COOPERATION ALREADY EXISTS BETWEEN IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA WITH REGARD TO PRESERVATION OF PEACE, STABILITY, SECURITY AND FREE NAVIGATION IN GULF. KHALATBARI'S STATEMENT ALSO STRESSED CLOSENESS OF FRATERNAL RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES, ADDING THAT THERE WAS NOTHING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WHICH COULD BE TERMED "AN ISSUE." KHALATBARI ALSO HAD KIND WORDS FOR SAUDI ARABIA'S OVERALL DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS. HE THANKED SAUDIS FOR WARM RECEPTION AND LAVISH HOSPITALITY, WHICH HE SAW AS ONE OF BEST EXAMPLES OF DEEP-ROOTED CORDIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO NATIONS.

4. MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SAQQAF MADE STATEMENT FOR IRANIAN TV AT CONCLUSION OF VISIT.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 JIDDA 02867 140657Z

HE REFERRED PRINCIPALLY TO BONDS OF ISLAM LINKING TWO NATIONS, ADDING THAT TALKS SOUGHT TO "BENEFIT MUSLIMS AND AND TALKS SOUGHTS TO "BENEFIT MUSLIMS AND (KEEP THEM) FREE FROM FOREIGN DOMINATION, WITH NO DESIRE FOR EXPANSION AT THE EXPENSE OF A NEIGHBORLY STATE." SAQQAF MADE PASSING REFERENCE AS WELL TO SAUDI SATISFACTION WITH IRAN'S POSITION ON PALESTINE AND JERSUALEM.

5. COMMENT: FOREGOING REVEALS, OF COURSE, DETERMINED EFFORTS BY BOTH SIDES PUT BEST POSSIBLE PUBLIC FACE ON VISIT AND TO REBUT CONVENTIONAL ARAB MISGIVINGS WITH REGARD IRANIAN INTENTIONS. WE HAVE LITTLE REASON BELIEVE TALKS HERE IN FACT ANYTHING OTHER THAN HARMONIOUS, THOUGH WE WILL HAVE TO DO SOME MORE PROBING BEFORE WE CAN BE SURE WHETHER KHALATBARI VISIT DID ACTUALLY RESULT IN SOME PRACTICAL ADVANCE TOWARD REAL COOPERATION ON IMPORTANT MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. IT IS WORTH NOTING AS ONE MINOR EXAMPLE OF COOPERATION THAT IN ORDER EVADE SEMANTIC DISPUTE AS TO WHETHER GULF ARAB OR PERSIAN ALL PRESS COMMENTARY AND STATEMENTS FROM EITHER SIDE REFERRED SIMPLY TO "THE GULF"
THACHER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973JIDDA02867
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730744/aaaabfwl.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02-Jan-2002 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <14-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT--PRESS COVERAGE AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS
TAGS: PFOR, SA, IR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005